

**Island County Board of Health
Regular Meeting - Monday, March 21, 2011
Minutes**

Members Present: Commissioners: Helen Price Johnson, Angie Homola, and Kelly Emerson; Jim Slowik, Mayor of Oak Harbor; and, Roger S. Case, MD, Executive Secretary to the Board.

Members Absent: Anne Tarrant, Whidbey General Hospital Commissioner; Captain Susan Lichtenstein, MSC, USN, Ex-Officio Member.

Call to Order: Chair Helen Price Johnson called this Regular Meeting of the Island County Board of Health to order at 1:25 p.m.

Additions or Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The Chair called for the approval of the minutes of the February 22, 2011 Special Meeting. Commissioner Price Johnson noted a misspelling of John Acton's name. With the spelling correction made, Commissioner Homola moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. Commissioner Emerson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Community Health Advisory Board (CHAB): Keith Higman, Health Services Director, said he was very happy that Ms. Sandy Ziemer was willing to serve on the CHAB. Ms. Ziemer was a member of the Children's Commission and served that body as their liaison to the CHAB. She has been attending CHAB meetings and has become an active participant. CHAB and staff want to formalize her position on the CHAB and highly recommend her appointment to Position No. 5 of that Board. Commissioner Homola moved that Ms. Sandy Ziemer be appointed to fill Position No. 5 on the Community Health Advisory Board. Commissioner Emerson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: Tuberculosis Surveillance & Response: Suzanne Turner, Community & Family Health Director, introduced Caroline Lokkins, RN, Public Health Nurse who leads the Health Department's Tuberculosis Surveillance & Response Program. Caroline began by telling the Board that when she was graduated from college, TB was on the decline and was not highly stressed in her curriculum. It looked, at the time, as if this would be one of the diseases that could possibly be eradicated in the foreseeable future. Then in the 1990's, there was an increase of HIV infections and a breakup of the Soviet block countries' public health system. The World Health Organization estimates that 9 million new cases of Tuberculosis are diagnosed yearly and 1.5 million people die of the disease every year.

Island County does not experience a high volume of cases. The national numbers are actually declining some and that is a good statistic since our population has significantly increased. It is an ancient disease even found in Egyptian mummies. Caroline briefly reviewed the symptoms of the disease and how it affects any the human body's organs or systems. The public health system is especially concerned when the lungs are affected as the disease is most contagious from one person to another. She went on to discuss the challenges of diagnosing active pulmonary TB and the case management protocols observed by public health.

Contracts:

Keith Higman, Health Services Director, presented the following contracts for consideration:

1. Department of Health – Consolidated Contract 2007-2011
Contract No. C14949, Amendment No. 29
Contract Amount: \$ 3,856,070
Amendment Amount: \$ 5,851

Commissioner Homola moved that the Department of Health Contract C14949, Amendment 29 be approved as presented. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

2. Whidbey Watershed Stewards – Salmon Recovery Education & Outreach
Contract No. HD-03-11
Contract Amount: \$ 14,880

Commissioner Homola moved that the contracts be approved as presented. Commissioner Emerson seconded the motion. Commissioners Homola and Emerson voted for the motion, Mayor Slowik voted opposed. The motion passed.

Legislative Update: Keith Higman updated the Board on the status of several bills that they had talked about at Work Session and past Board of Health meetings:

HB1015 / SB5005 – Immunization Exemption. The Board supported this bill and sent correspondence stating their support. This bill is still alive and moving.

HB1370 / SB5234 – Secure Medicine Take Back. This Board, not unanimously, supported this bill but it is dead.

HB1637 – Limited local Board of Health authority for deciding the frequency of septic inspections for communities in Washington. This bill is dead.

HB5016 – Smoking in Motor Vehicles. Prohibited smoking in autos with minors in them who are less than 18 years. This bill is dead.

HB1061 – This bill would alter the process by which an individual a license for septic design work in Washington, eliminating some of the requirement for continuing education units for a Certificate of Competency. This bill was moved to the “X-file” which means it could be resurrected and attached to another bill or as a budget proviso.

Health Department Report: Keith Higman advised the Board that a National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) conducted a survey in 2010 which showed that for the 3rd year in a row, local public health departments have lost 29,000 public health jobs. The highest job losses are in Maternal/Child Health, Prevention Services, Environmental Health, Chronic Disease, and Clinical Health Services. Commissioner Price Johnson asked Mr. Higman to advise the Board on the plan for replacing the coverage for the ACHIEVE grant due to the recent loss of the program’s staff coordinator. Mr. Higman advised that the plan is to reassign some tasks in the chronic disease program to a manager, reassign some tasks to a .6 staff person, and to connect some nurse capacity on Camano to chronic disease services which should continue support to the programs initiated at parks, schools and the SNAP-ED program.

Dr. Case addressed the Board on the public’s concern on the potential of radiation exposure in the United States resulting from the earthquake damage to the nuclear facilities in Japan. He stressed that the distance between the U.S. and Japan is sufficient to ensure that any radiation making it to our shores will be barely detectable above normal levels of background radiation and well below thresholds posing measurable risk to human health. He went on to warn that taking potassium iodide (K1) is not needed at this point in time and the risks of this medication far outweigh any hypothetical benefit related to exposure from the current events in Japan.

Adjourn: There being no further business before the Board, Chair Price Johnson adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Health will be held on April 18, 2011 at 1:15 p.m. in the Commissioner’s Hearing Room (B-102).

Submitted: _____
Roger S. Case, MD
Executive Secretary to the Board

Minutes approved this 18th day of April 2011
ISLAND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Helen Price Johnson, Board Chair